Foreign assistance for development of tourism in NE region

744. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop tourism sector in Assam and other parts of North-Eastern Region with foreign assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

{c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has sanctioned a study which aims at providing a long-term sustainable tourism development plan for the State of Nagaland. Sutdy is being executed by World Tourism Organisation. The plan will comprise a tourism development programme, community and human resource development programme, marketing development programme and institutional strengthening. The preparation of plan will be a starting point for taking necessary action and implementing various strategies to achieve sustainable growth in tourism development.

Tourism Promotion in NE Region and J & K

745. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND
CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the importance attached to tourism promotion in the North-Eastern States and Jammu and Kashmir in the national tourism policy; and

(b) the details of promotional measures and financial allocation thereof during the current fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The National Tourism Policy envisages implementation of on-gotng cost effective promotion programmes in each source market in partnership with the states and the private sector of the tourism industry. During the current financial year an Eco-tourism circuit for the North Eastern States

and Himalayan circuit for Northern region which includes Leh in Jammu & Kashmir have been identified for development.

(b) During the current financial year a sum of Rs.22.50 crores has been earmarked as lump sum amount for the schemes/projects including toruism promotion of North Eastern region. A sum of Rs.106 crores has been released during the year to J&K for various ongoing tourism schemes/ projects.

Development of Baleshwar City

†746. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are places in the country which although of mythological, religious and historical importance have yet not been developed as tourist spots;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that Baleshwar city in Beh Tehsil in District Agra is one such place of mythological, historical and religious importance, but it has not been developed from tourism point of view so far; and

(c) if so, whether Government are taking steps with the help of State Government for its development as a tourist spot?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE {SHRIJAGMOHAN): (a) India has a large number of mythological, religious and historical places. Development and maintenance of Tourist places Is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/UT Administrations concerned. However, the Department of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance every year for development and improvement of Infrastructure facilities at tourist places including places of mythological, religious and historical importance identified in consultation with them.

(b) and (c) There is no place known as Baleshwar city as well as Beh Tehsil in Agra district. However, during 9th Plan Department of Tourism has sanctioned two projects i.e. Flood Lighting at BateshwarTemple and Integrated Development of Bateshwar in Agra involving an amount of Rs.55.00 lakhs and Rs.17.50 lakhs have already been released.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.